

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “22” has been used to designate both the ridges in Figure 1 and the washer in Figure 2. Figure 1 has been amended so that the ridges in Figure 1 are now labeled “20” and the washer “22” does not appear in Figure 1. A replacement sheet is attached to this response.

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(6), citing to Long (‘574). The claims have now been amended to reflect the over-molded components that comprise the anchorage ends of the connector. The Long (‘574) reference does not describe a connector with one or more over-molded components. In addition, new claim 7 has been added to further distinguish the invention over the prior art.

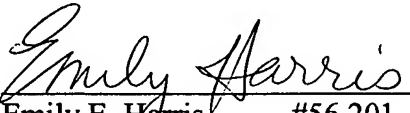
Accordingly, the purpose of the claimed invention is not taught nor suggested by the cited references, nor is there any suggestion or teaching that would motivate one skilled in the relevant art to combine the references in a manner that would meet the purpose of the claimed invention. Because the cited references, whether considered alone, or in combination with one another, do not teach nor suggest the purpose of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art, including the art cited merely of record.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/28/04


Emily E. Harris #56,201
DAVIS, BROWN, KOEHN,
SHORS & ROBERTS, P.C.
666 Walnut St., Suite 2500
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
Telephone: (515) 288-2500

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT